

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. through 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method for implementing a service on a management portal of a network to provide a customer at a remote node in the network with the capability to view on a web page a topology map of the customer's partitioned network, the method comprising:

receiving from the remote node a request for the topology map;

gathering information relevant to the requested topology map;

invoking an object-oriented map view module with the gathered information to create a map view object configured to generate the requested topology map with the gathered information; and

transporting the requested topology map to the remote network node utilizing a network protocol that enables the requested topology map to be linked into a web page.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

adding, by the map view object, a plurality of symbols to the requested topology map, wherein the symbols comprise at least one of either a network node icon symbol and a connection line symbol.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein transporting the requested topology map comprises:

associating the requested topology map with an output file stream.

24. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

displaying on the remote network node a display of topology map options for generating the customer's network topology map,

wherein the gathered information is consistent with the customer's selection of topology map options, if selected.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein the topology map options comprise one or more of the group of individually-selectable parameters including performance attributes, status and throughput.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

providing the customer with a display of filtering functions that may be applied to the customer's network partition to generate the requested topology map,

wherein the gathered information is consistent with the customer's selection of a desired filter function, when selected.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

initializing a graphics driver as a member function of the map view module, wherein the graphics driver is defined by a graphics driver class representing a supplied graphics library; and

generating a system call to a supplied graphics library to generate the requested topology map.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

formatting the topology map to conform to a graphics format supported by the supplied graphics library, wherein the graphics format comprises at least one of the group comprising portable network graphics ("PNG") format and graphics interchange format ("GIF").

29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the network protocol comprises one or more of the group comprising HTTP, TCP/IP and X.25.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the network topology generation service is one of a plurality of services provided to customers by a service provider.

31. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the network comprises a combination of one or more of a local area network, wide area network wireless network and internet.

32. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein the service provider configures a portion of the network into partitioned networks, wherein the portion of the network comprises a partitioned network allocated to the customer.

33. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
providing authentication services for the customer by a web server executing on the management portal.

34. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein transporting the requested topology map comprises:

generating a web page with a hypertext link to the location in which the requested topology map is stored;

forwarding the web page over the network to the customer; and

receiving a command to invoke a common gateway interface in the management portal to transport the stored topology map to the customer using the network protocol.

35. (New) A computer readable storage medium on which is embedded one or more computer programs implementing a method for providing a service on a management portal of a network to provide a customer at a remote node in the network with the capability to view on a web page a topology map of the customer's partitioned network, and comprising a set of instructions for:

- receiving from the remote node a request for the topology map;
- gathering information relevant to the requested topology map;
- invoking an object-oriented map view module with the gathered information to create a map view object configured to generate the requested topology map with the gathered information; and
- transporting the requested topology map to the remote network node utilizing a network protocol that enables the requested topology map to be linked into a web page.

36. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the one or more computer programs further comprising a set of instructions for:

- adding, by the map view object, a plurality of symbols to the requested topology map, wherein the symbols comprise at least one of either a network node icon symbol and a connection line symbol.

37. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the one or more computer programs further comprising a set of instructions for:

- associating the requested topology map with an output file stream.

38. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the one or more computer programs further comprising a set of instructions for:

- displaying on the remote network node a display of topology map options for generating the customer's network topology map,
- wherein the gathered information is consistent with the customer's selection of topology map options, if selected.

39. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 38, wherein the topology map options comprise one or more of the group of individually-selectable parameters including performance attributes, status and throughput.

40. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the one or more computer programs further comprising a set of instructions for:

providing the customer with a display of filtering functions that may be applied to the customer's network partition to generate the requested topology map,

wherein the gathered information is consistent with the customer's selection of a desired filter function, when selected.

41. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the one or more computer programs further comprising a set of instructions for:

initializing a graphics driver as a member function of the map view module, wherein the graphics driver is defined by a graphics driver class representing a supplied graphics library; and

generating a system call to a supplied graphics library to generate the requested topology map.

42. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 41, wherein the one or more computer programs further comprising a set of instructions for:

formatting the topology map to conform to a graphics format supported by the supplied graphics library, wherein the graphics format comprises at least one of the group comprising portable network graphics ("PNG") format and graphics interchange format ("GIF").

43. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the network protocol comprises one or more of the group comprising HTTP, TCP/IP and X.25.

44. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the network topology generation service is one of a plurality of services provided to customers by a service provider.

45. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the network comprises a combination of one or more of a local area network, wide area network wireless network and internet.

46. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 44, wherein the service provider configures a portion of the network into partitioned networks, wherein the portion of the network comprises a partitioned network allocated to the customer.

47. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein the one or more computer programs further comprising a set of instructions for:

providing authentication services for the customer by a web server executing on the management portal.

48. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 35, wherein transporting the requested topology map comprises:

generating a web page with a hypertext link to the location in which the requested topology map is stored;

forwarding the web page over the network to the customer; and

receiving a command to invoke a common gateway interface in the management portal to transport the stored topology map to the customer using the network protocol.

49. (New) A management portal of a network to provide a customer at a remote node in the network with the capability to view on a web page a topology map of the customer's partitioned network, comprising:

at least one processor;

a memory coupled to the at least one processor; and

a topology map module residing in the memory and executed by the at least one processor, wherein the topology map module is configured to receive from the remote node a request for the topology map, gather information relevant to the requested topology map, invoke an object-oriented map view module with the gathered information to create a map view object configured to generate the requested topology map with the gathered information and transport the requested topology map to the remote network node utilizing a network protocol that enables the requested topology map to be linked into a web page.

50. (New) The management portal of claim 49, wherein the map view object is further configured to add a plurality of symbols to the requested topology map, wherein the symbols comprise at least one of either a network node icon symbol and a connection line symbol.

51. (New) The management portal of claim 49, wherein the topology map module is further configured to associate the requested topology map with an output file stream.

52. (New) The management portal of claim 49, wherein the topology map module is further configured to display on the remote network node a display of topology map options for generating the customer's network topology map, wherein the gathered information is consistent with the customer's selection of topology map options, if selected.

53. (New) The management portal of claim 52, wherein the topology map options comprise one or more of the group of individually-selectable parameters including performance attributes, status and throughput.

54. (New) The management portal of claim 49, further comprising:

providing the customer with a display of filtering functions that may be applied to the customer's network partition to generate the requested topology map,

wherein the gathered information is consistent with the customer's selection of a desired filter function, when selected.

55. (New) The management portal of claim 49, further comprising:

initializing a graphics driver as a member function of the map view module, wherein the graphics driver is defined by a graphics driver class representing a supplied graphics library; and

generating a system call to a supplied graphics library to generate the requested topology map.

56. (New) The management portal of claim 55, further comprising:

formatting the topology map to conform to a graphics format supported by the supplied graphics library, wherein the graphics format comprises at least one of the group comprising portable network graphics ("PNG") format and graphics interchange format ("GIF").

57. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the network protocol comprises one or more of the group comprising HTTP, TCP/IP and X.25.

58. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the network topology generation service is one of a plurality of services provided to customers by a service provider.

59. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein the network comprises a combination of one or more of a local area network, wide area network wireless network and internet.

60. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the service provider configures a portion of the network into partitioned networks, wherein the portion of the network comprises a partitioned network allocated to the customer.

61. (New) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

providing authentication services for the customer by a web server executing on the management portal.

62. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein transporting the requested topology map comprises:

generating a web page with a hypertext link to the location in which the requested topology map is stored;

forwarding the web page over the network to the customer; and

receiving a command to invoke a common gateway interface in the management portal to transport the stored topology map to the customer using the network protocol.